GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5440
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
HEALTH OF MINE WORKERS
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the health of the labourers/workers engaged in mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the steps being taken to protect the health of such workers; and

(c) the various health related schemes and other medical facilities available to such workers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH)

(a) & (b) Although, no specific study has been conducted but the labourers/workers engaged in mining are medically examined at the time of their initial employment and at every five years interval thereafter as required under rule 29B of the Mines Rules, 1955. It has been observed that silicosis and pneumoconiosis are the two common diseases that have been notified by the Government accordingly. Moreover, elaborate provisions exist under Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 regarding precaution against dust, execution measures for dust control, checks on measures for dust control, stone dust barriers, standard of ventilation and velocity of air current. Similarly, elaborate provisions exist under Metalliferous Mines Regulations, 1961. These provisions are rigorously followed up during inspections and enquiries and corrective measures are initiated wherever required.

(c) Under the Mines Rules, 1955 provisions for medical facilities in the form of first aid stations and first aid rooms for the benefit of persons employed in mines are statutorily mandated. Provisions for facilities to conduct elaborate initial medical examination prior to employment and thereafter periodical medical examination once in every five years irrespective of working status/position of the employee are also available in most of the mines.